## **PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

# BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

9-1939

# DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM WESTERN MEXICO.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM.

The present paper offers descriptions of two more of the numerous undescribed subspecies of birds discovered during the writer's studies of the collections of Mexican birds in the British Museum. In this case the genera *Vireo* and *Vermivora* are dealt with.

#### Vireo solitarius repetens, subsp. nov.

Type.—Male adult, just finishing the annual moult; No. 91.11.3.357 British Museum; Tixtla (Amula), Guerrero, Mexico, August, 1888, alt. 6000 feet; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith.

Subspecific characters.—A relatively large, predominantly gray race which most closely resembles Vireo solitarius plumbeus Coues of the southern Rocky Mountain region of the United States; differs, however, in longer wing, shorter tail, and greener lower back and rump; differs from Vireo solitarius pinicolus van Rossem of northwestern Mexico in paler and grayer (less greenish) upperparts and flanks, and in decidedly shorter tail.

Range.—The Sierra Madre del Sur in Guerrero (Amula; Omilteme; Rincon), south to Oaxaca (Sola), and north to southern Jalisco (Volcan de Colima; Zapotlan).

Remarks.—Although readily distinguishable in series, repetens is much more like plumbeus than the intervening pinicolus, which is darker, greener, and slightly larger than either. The series of 10 specimens from Guerrero contains two juveniles which show the same comparative characters as the adults. As to the range outside of Guerrero, there is a single April specimen from Sola, Oaxaca. A single midwinter specimen (December 19) from the Volcan de Colima in extreme southern Jalisco is apparently typical also. Three rather worn and presumably resident birds from Zapotlan, Jalisco (March 28 to April 16) are nearer to pinicolus in color but have the short tail of repetens.

Since I have never been able to discern any size differences between the sexes of any race of *Vireo solitarius*, both sexes are included in the following

measurements. Actually, six of the repetens are sexed as male, two as female, and five are not marked.

	`		WING		TAIL
13 repetens		78-83	(82)	54-57	(55)
13 pinicolus	(average)		(83)		(59)
12 plumbeus	(average)		(77)	•	(58)

Several years ago the writer called attention (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 77, No. 7, Dec., 1934, p. 469) to certain differences between a large series of Vermivora superciliosa from Chihuahua and a more limited amount of material from central and eastern Mexico, but since the two series were seasonally not comparable no name was given to the western birds. The series in the British Museum confirms the color differences previously noted but nullifies the supposed character of the larger bills of the western birds. Indeed after measuring 32 Vermivora superciliosa superciliosa from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Chiapas; 43 Vermivora superciliosa mexicana from eastern and central Mexico, and 26 of the new race, I can detect no diagnostic size differences between any of these races.

### Vermivora superciliosa palliata, subsp. nov.

Type.—Male adult, No. 92.4.1.338 British Museum; Sierra Nevada de Colima Jalisco, Mexico, April 7, 1889; collected by W. B. Richardson.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to Vermivora superciliosa mexicana (Cabanis) of south-central and eastern Mexico but coloration paler throughout; the yellow abdominal area more restricted, and the flanks grayer (less greenish) as well as paler.

Range.—The Sierra Madre del Sur, Guerrero, north through Jalisco and Durango to southwestern Chihuahua.